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URBAN DISTRICT OF RUGBY.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

Leamington :

A. TOMES, 46, BEDFORD STREET.

1926.

14, YORK ROAD,
LEAMINGTON SPA,

June, 1926.

To the Rugby Urban District Council.



MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you the Report for the year 1925, relating to the health of the District.

Incorporated in the Report, as required by the Ministry of Health, is a survey of conditions during the past five years. As a record, even if an imperfect one, of health conditions in the District, it may be of some interest.

I would wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and also to my colleagues for their ready help at all times.

The preparation of the present Report has entailed special work on the part of Mr. Parsons and Mr. Bartlett, which I acknowledge with many thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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Rugby Urban District.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| Area (Acres) | | | | | | 1,671 |
| Population (1925) | | | | | | 25,770 |
| „ (Census, 1921) .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 25,220 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5,311 |
| Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921) .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5,716 |
| Rateable Value .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £175,294 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £688 |

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

| | | Total. | M. | F. | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--------|------|------|--------------|------|
| Births | { Legitimate | 360 | 181 | 179 | } Birth Rate | 14.5 |
| | { Illegitimate | 12 | 4 | 8 | | |
| Deaths ... | ... | 228 | 99 | 129 | Death Rate | 8.9 |
| Factor for the Correction of Death Rate for Age and Sex | | | | | | |
| Distribution ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | .996 |
| Corrected Death Rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8.8 |
| Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :— | | | | | | |
| From Sepsis |  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| „ other causes |  | .... | .... | .... | .... | — |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :— | | | | | | |
| Legitimate, 32 ; Illegitimate, 0 ; total, 32. | | | | | | |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) |  | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 |
| „ | „ Whooping Cough (all ages) | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| „ | „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | .... | .... | .... | .... | — |

VITAL STATISTICS.

See Table II.

Population.—The estimated figure shews 25,770, an increase of 682 over the Census figure of 1921, but a decrease of 70 during the past year.

The “natural increase” during the year, *i.e.*, the increase of births over deaths, was 144.

Birth-Rate.—There were 372 births, giving a Birth-Rate of 14.5 per 1,000 ; in 1924 the respective figures were 348 and 13.5.

Reference to Table II. will shew that there was a steady decrease from 1920, but the past year shows a slight increase.

Death-Rate.—There were 228 deaths, giving a Death-Rate of 8.9 per 1,000. These figures are lower than those of 1924.

Of the deaths 32 were due to Heart Disease, 35 to Cancer 19 to Bronchitis, and 17 to Apoplexy. There were 20 deaths due to some form of Tuberculosis. Details of the various causes of death will be found in Table IV.

Cancer has been responsible for the following number of deaths in recent years :—1914, 23 ; 1915, 22 ; 1916, 16 ; 1917, 13 ; 1918, 16 ; 1919, 19 ; 1920, 22 ; 1921, 25 ; 1922, 36 ; 1923, 36 ; 1924, 23 ; 1925, 35.

Infantile Mortality.—12 deaths of children under one year were registered, giving a rate of 22 per 1,000 births. This is the lowest Infantile Death-Rate of which I have any record. It is interesting to note that of the 12 infantile deaths 4 were due to conditions existing prior to birth.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—There has not been any alteration in the water supply in the town with the exception that the Barby Road Water Works have been entirely shut down on account of the collecting area at Browns Farm, etc., being opened up as Building Estates. The supply is now taken solely from the River Avon. The water is collected at the Brownsover Reservoir, and passed to the Avon Water Works by means of an eighteen inch C.I. pipe, and thence on to sand filters and into clear water tanks, and pumped therefrom into the Town.

Samples are taken frequently and submitted for analysis, both chemical and bacteriological. The results have proved satisfactory, but indicate the necessity for a careful supervision, and the advisability of a fresh source of supply.

In addition to the town of Rugby the following parts of the Rugby Rural District are also supplied :—New Bilton, Old Bilton, Newbold, Hillmorton, Brownsover, and part of Clifton. These villages together contain more than a third of the total population of the Rural District.

The remarks made in past Reports with respect to the Water supply are still applicable.

The many details connected with the new Water Supply are still occupying the attention of the appropriate Committees. The work of constructing the new Storage Reservoir was commenced last November, and I am informed that it is progressing satisfactorily. The negotiations have been prolonged and difficult, and the satisfactory results must be ascribed in great part to the zeal and enthusiasm which has been put into the work by Mr. Morson.

Sewage Disposal.—The works are situated in the parish of New Bilton, and can be divided into two sections :—(1) The High Level, consisting of Diverting chamber, 2 Detritus Tanks, 3 Septic Tanks, and 4 Circular Filter Beds 80 feet in diameter ; the effluent from this section passes directly into the River Avon, and appears to be uniformly good in quality (2) Low Level Works, consist of 2 Detritus Tanks, Diverting Chamber, 2 Septic Tanks, 1 Storm Water Tank, 10 Filter Beds 88 feet in diameter, and 6 Sludge Beds. The effluent from these works is far from good, and is usually passed over land at Newbold before gaining access to the River.

Speaking generally I have found the result of the working of the High Level beds to be good, but there would appear to be some factor concerned with the purification of the sewage on the lower works which prevents the attainment of a uniformly satisfactory result, and even the extensive additions which have been made since the last Report have not had the hoped-for result.

Closet Accommodation.—In the whole area there are very few closets on the dry disposal system ; these are in situations where it is impossible to provide sewers ; pails are provided.

All the more recently erected cottages, as well as a good number of older small houses, have water closets fitted with flushing cisterns. The hand-flushing method persists in rather less than half of the small house property in the town, and in these cases water is close at hand. Wherever feasible this system is being replaced by the more modern and efficient flushing cisterns.

With very few exceptions, there is at least one water-closet to every two houses.

Scavenging.—Under the scavenging system ashes and refuse are removed at weekly intervals, or in some cases more frequently.

With the exception of a few fixed ash-pits, all houses are provided with moveable ashbins. Insanitary wooden boxes,

etc., are giving place to galvanized iron receptacles, and under the Rugby Act, 1923, definite powers are given with regard to this matter.

The Electric Lorry which has been working the district, in connection with House Refuse Removal, is working satisfactorily. It is hoped that a second Lorry will be provided as soon as certain Statistics are obtained. A new 15-tons weigh-bridge, together with office accommodation, has been provided at the Destructor for obtaining the required particulars. The Destructor is now in good working order.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Table appended to the Sanitary Inspector's Report gives a summary of his inspections, and in his Report will be found full details on this matter, as well as on the premises controlled by Bye-laws.

SCHOOLS.—Elementary Schools are inspected as occasion arises. On the whole they are satisfactory from a sanitary point of view, and in some instances quite modern in design.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—The sampling under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out mainly by the officials of the County Council, though if there is any special reason for so doing, sampling is also carried out by the Inspectors. 31 samples were thus taken and found to be genuine. There has been no other information given to me during the past year respecting the results of sampling, so that I am unable to judge the quality of the whole milk supply ; having regard, however, to results in previous years, I am presuming that, generally speaking, the milk was of satisfactory quality.

The question of cleanliness of the milk supply is to my mind the special need at present ; the number of cases in which one can detect dirt in a sample of milk, though becoming smaller, is yet far too great, and here I might say that Rugby is not unique in this respect. The opportunities for milk to become dirty or contaminated from the time it leaves the cow till it is consumed are very considerable ; the cleanliness of the various agents, inclusive of the cow and the consumer, is such a variable quantity, that milk which is produced under ideal conditions perhaps, may deteriorate sadly before reaching the table. There is little doubt that it would be a great step forward if the dispensing of milk in bottles as carried out almost universally in America were more

general in this country, though of course it is necessary to add that such milk should be put into the already sterilised bottle at the farm in order to produce the best result. One would also like to suggest that the use of a bottle renders it much more easy to detect the presence of dirt, and, if necessary, to demonstrate the same on delivery to the milk vendor, with a view to its elimination in future deliveries, a rough estimation of the good quality or otherwise of the milk can be made.

One realises the difficulties which arise, but such difficulties ought not to stand in the way of a change ; the possibilities of such a change are within the reach of the public if they will only insist on them.

I am still of the opinion that a small general shop is not a fit place for the sale of milk, but glad to note that all milk thus dealt with is kept and sold in the bottles in which it is received.

The number of persons on the Register as kept under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order is 69 ; this is an increase of 12 during the year.

One license for the sale of Certified Milk was issued during the year. No licenses were refused or revoked.

(b) *Meat.*

Inspection.—Of the 15 slaughterhouses in the town, 8 are the property of the Council, and the rest privately owned. Although the inspection at the time of slaughtering is much more easily carried out in a town, it will be realised that it must take up a great amount of time, so that it is only due to the fact that we have two Inspectors that renders it possible to do the work efficiently and to carry on the other activities as well.

All the slaughterhouses are in reasonable condition and the regulations respecting limewashing have been carried out regularly.

During the year a large quantity of food was condemned as unfit for food ; this is detailed in the Inspectors' Report. No seizures or prosecutions were necessary.

Generally speaking the new Meat Regulations, 1924, appear somewhat irksome to the butchers, but have been reasonably well observed.

Condemned meat is removed to the Destructor, and there dealt with.

Shops.—There is only one stall opened on one day per week, it complies with the Regulations.

Slaughterhouses in use.

| | 1920. | Jan., 1925. | Dec., 1925. |
|----------------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| Registered ... | 16 | 15 | 15 |
| Licensed ... | — | — | — |

(c) The Bakehouses, 19 in number, are frequently inspected and kept in good condition.

(d) The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts are administered partly by the County Council and partly by the Council.

3. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

| | | Diphtheria. | Scarlet Fever. | Enteric Fever. | Pneumonia. | Encephalitis Lethargica. | Puerperal Fever. |
|------|-----|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1921 | ... | 17 | 35 | 2 | 36 | 2 | 2 |
| 1922 | ... | 11 | 65 | 1 | 70 | 3 | 1 |
| 1923 | ... | 19 | 23 | 3 | 77 | 1 | 1 |
| 1924 | ... | 19 | 45 | 5 | 90 | 6 | 5 |
| 1925 | ... | 28 | 71 | 1 | 62 | 2 | 3 |

Reference to Table III. will give the age incidence of the cases notified during 1925.

Smallpox.—No cases have occurred during the past 5 years, but the past year or so have not been without anxiety on this score. There have been cases in towns near by, and in several counties around ; furthermore, it must be remembered that Rugby is an important junction both by road and rail, and therefore there has been every facility for the introduction of Smallpox into the town. We have so far escaped, but it is not difficult to imagine that the situation would be a serious one should the disease get a foothold in the town, especially having regard to the unvaccinated state of a considerable proportion of the population.

The Smallpox Hospital is, so I am informed, being kept in such a condition as will enable it to be opened within four hours.

Diphtheria.—During the past year there were 27 cases notified, and 207 swabs were taken for diagnostic purposes. Of the cases 23 were taken to the Isolation Hospital ; there were 2 deaths. The figures for the past five years, as tabulated

at the top of this section, show the past year to have the largest incidence. There would not appear to be any special cause to which this can be attributed ; there were 4 cases in one household and 3 in another, otherwise the cases were distributed throughout the town.

It seems impossible at times to trace the source of infection. Children frequent picture houses and similar places much more than in the past, and when one realises that children and adults from a large area round sit close together in an atmosphere which even if reasonably pure is wholly artificial in character, and is often far from pure, it is obvious that such places must constitute a possible source of infection.

As far as I am aware the SCHICK REACTION has not been used in the District.

Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council for use amongst the poorer patients in the Town. This can be obtained by doctors from Messrs. Chamberlain, Chemists, Market Place.

Scarlet Fever.—It will be noted that with an increased incidence of Diphtheria, there is also an increased number of cases of Scarlet Fever, 71, as compared with an average number of 42 for the four previous years. It is to be noted however, that in 1922 there were nearly as many cases, viz., 62. Again, one can say that there is no apparent reason for the spread of the infection, but on the other hand there would appear to be every possible opportunity. There was much doubt in the mind of the Medical Officer at the Infectious Diseases Hospital as to the character of some of the cases notified, and this doubt was intensified by some cases which I saw at the Rugby School Sanatorium by the courtesy of Dr. Simey, which though very difficult and confusing as regards differential diagnosis, were on the weight of evidence shewn not to be Scarlet Fever.

There is no information to the effect that the DICK TEST has been used in the District ; the same applies to any method of artificial immunisation.

Enteric Fever.—Only one case, of the Paratyphoid B. type, was notified. There was also another case not notified before death ; this was of the true Typhoid type.

It is interesting to note that the Paratyphoid Fever B, which constituted the majority of the cases in 1923 and 1924 was introduced into the town at the time an outbreak of considerable proportion was in progress in the Warwick Rural District and the Borough of Leamington Spa.

A careful watch is kept on the water supply of the town and precautions taken to see that a bacteriologically pure supply is maintained.

Pneumonia.—62 cases were notified, and there were 81 deaths. This figure is considerably less than that for 1924. There was, however, during the latter year a considerable outbreak of Influenza. On the whole notification of Pneumonia is well observed.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—2 cases were notified, as compared with 6 in 1924; there were 2 deaths. It is only now that the serious nature of this disease is being realised; the immediate fatality is almost less of a tragedy than the remoter effects on the nervous system and mentality of the sufferer.

Puerperal Fever.—3 cases were notified, and there was one death. Such cases are immediately notified to the County Medical Officer for any steps he may consider advisable.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases were notified.

Laboratory Work.—See Section 6.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.—No action was taken or required.

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease.—The following list of School closures indicates fairly accurately the amount of non-notifiable infectious disease :—

Caldicott Girls, from Feb. 2nd to Feb. 16th. Influenza.
 Chapel Street Council, from Feb. 2nd to March 1st. Influenza.
 West Central Girls, from Feb. 2nd to March 1st. Influenza.
 Murray Boys, from Feb. 2nd to March 1st. Influenza.
 Elboro Boys, from Feb. 2nd to March 1st. Influenza.
 Eastland Boys, from Feb. 2nd to March 1st. Influenza.
 St. Matthew's Central, from Feb. 5th to Feb. 16th. Influenza.
 St. Matthew's Infants, from Feb. 5th to Feb. 16th. Influenza.
 Benn Infants, from Feb. 5th to Feb. 16th. Influenza.
 Rugby Wood Street Infants, from Feb. 6th to Feb. 16th.
 Influenza.
 Rugby Wood Street Girls, from Feb. 7th to Feb. 16th.
 Influenza.
 Rugby Wood Street Junior, from Feb. 7th to Feb. 26th.
 Influenza.
 Benn Infants, from May 4th to May 18th. Measles.
 Chapel Street Infants, from June 13th to June 27th. Measles.

The school teachers of the town follow the rules laid down by the County Council with regard to exclusion of infected families from school, which are based on the Local Government Board's Memorandum of 1909. Notifications of all infectious diseases occurring in the families of schoolchildren are forwarded to me from the schools,

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

| AGE—PERIODS | NEW CASES. | | | | | | DEATHS. | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----|-----|----------------|----|-----|------------|----|-----|----------------|----|-----|
| | Pulmonary. | | | Non-Pulmonary. | | | Pulmonary. | | | Non-Pulmonary. | | |
| | M. | F. | ... | M. | F. | ... | M. | F. | ... | M. | F. | ... |
| 0 | — | — | ... | 1 | — | ... | — | — | ... | 1 | — | ... |
| 1 | — | — | ... | 1 | — | ... | — | — | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | — | ... | — | — | ... | 1 | — | ... |
| 10 | — | — | ... | — | — | ... | — | — | ... | — | — | ... |
| 15 | — | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | — | 1 | ... | — | — | ... |
| 20 | — | 3 | ... | — | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | — | 1 | ... |
| 25 | 2 | 1 | ... | — | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... |
| 35 | 7 | — | ... | 1 | — | ... | 2 | 3 | ... | — | — | ... |
| 45 | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | — | ... | — | 2 | ... | — | — | ... |
| 55 | 1 | — | ... | — | — | ... | — | — | ... | — | — | ... |
| 65 and upwards | — | — | ... | — | — | ... | — | — | ... | — | — | ... |
| TOTALS | 12 | 8 | ... | 7 | 4 | ... | 4 | 9 | ... | 4 | 3 | ... |

During the past year there have been notified 31 cases of Tuberculosis; in 20 cases the lungs were affected, and the remaining 11 the disease affected other parts of the body. In 1923 the respective figures were 30 and 12.

| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Cases ... | 36 | 77 | 50 | 26 | 40 | 41 | 51 |
| Deaths... | 9 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 24 | 21 | 26 |
| | 1919 | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
| Cases ... | 63 | 45 | 54 | 35 | 39 | 42 | 31 |
| Deaths... | 26 | 22 | 19 | 11 | 19 | 22 | 20 |

As noted last year a comparison of the number notified from year to year is of little value, so I have again set down the number of cases notified each year since 1912, when notification first became generally compulsory. It will be seen that I have also included the number of deaths each year for the same period. Generally speaking it would appear that there is little change in the incidence of the disease during the past 12 years, but on the other hand there is no doubt that cases are now, with the facilities provided, recognised at an earlier stage. There may therefore be a real improvement, though it is not obvious at the first glance.

The above figures show that the total number of cases notified up to the end of 1925 was 630, with 271 deaths, but it must be remembered that, owing to the comparatively chronic nature of the disease, the deaths do not refer necessarily to the actual cases notified. As regards some of the earlier cases, nothing is known of their fate or whereabouts.

Of the 31 cases notified during the past year, 5 have died during the year.

Treatment.—The total known number of cases treated at a Sanatorium since the establishment of the register is 226. During the past year 15 cases have been admitted to a Sanatorium for treatment.

19 cases were discharged after treatment.

Disinfectants and sputum bottles are supplied free through the Sanitary Inspector for cases where they are desirable. After deaths from tuberculosis and after removals of tuberculous patients, disinfection is carried out by the Inspector.

The Council has two Shelters for use at patients' homes.

INFANT -MORTALITY.

12 deaths of infants were registered as belonging to the town during the year, comparing with 21 in 1924, 19 in 1923, 23 in 1922, 31 in 1921, 23 in 1920, 29 in 1919, 37 in 1918, 24 in 1917, and 34 in 1916, and giving the infant mortality rate of 32 per thousand births. This rate compares with 60 in 1924, 45 in 1923, 53 in 1922, 67 in 1921, 44 in 1920, 74 in 1919, 86 in 1918, 52 in 1917, and 76 in 1916.

Of the deaths, 4 were due to congenital conditions.

Under the Notification of Births Act, practically all the births have been notified out of 372 registered in the District.

Weekly lists of births have been regularly forwarded by me to the County Officials, and a large number of infants have been visited by the County Health Visitor.

The fact that the Infantile Mortality of the district compares favourably with that of the rest of the country must be ascribed largely to the work of the County Health Visitors.

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There is nothing of special note to record.

5. SUMMARY (FOR REFERENCE) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—None provided by Local Authority.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority.—
 (1) Tuberculosis, None. (2) Maternity, None. (3) Children, None. (4) Fever and Smallpox, The Rugby Joint Hospital Board maintains the Harborough Magna and Lawford Heath Hospitals.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

The following Table shows the extent to which the County Scheme has been utilised for free bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

| | Positive. | Negative. | Total. |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Diphtheria ... | 45 | 162 | 207 |
| Enteric Fever... | 3 | 15 | 18 |
| Tuberculosis ... | 15 | 76 | 91 |
| | | | <hr/> 315 |

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Acts or parts of Acts adopted by the Council :—

Rugby Urban District Council Act, 1923.

PART IX.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND SANITARY PROVISIONS.

| | Section. |
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| Powers to close Sunday Schools and exclude children from entertainments ... | 109 |
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| Special provisions to prevent spread of infectious diseases ... | 111 |
| Extended meaning of "infectious disease" for certain purposes... | 112 |
| Power to compensate persons for ceasing employment to prevent spread of disease ... | 113 |
| Penalty on withholding information from medical officer ... | 114 |
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| For preventing contact with body of person who has died of infectious disease ... | 116 |
| As to house without water supply ... | 117 |
| As to filthy premises ... | 118 |
| House infested with vermin to be cleansed ... | 119 |
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| Public notice to be given of provisions of this part of Act ... | 122 |
| Regulation bins for refuse, etc. ... | 123 |
| Provision of public slaughter-house and prohibition of private slaughter-houses thereafter ... | 124 |
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PART X.—HUMAN FOOD.

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| For regulating manufacture and sale of ice cream, etc. ... | 126 |
| Rag and bone dealers not to sell food ... | 127 |
| Bye-laws requiring covering over of meat, etc., during conveyance through streets ... | 128 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Power to enter and inspect premises where food is deposited for sale | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 129 |
| Larders to be provided | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 130 |
| No place used for storage, etc., of human food to be used as a sleeping place | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 131 |
| Sanitary regulations for premises used for sale, etc., of food for human consumption | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 132 |

PART XII.—OFFENSIVE TRADES.

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Defining establishment of a new business for the purposes of section 112 of Public Health Act, 1875 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 136 |
| Discontinuance of offensive trade | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 137 |

Other Adoptive Acts.

Acts or parts of Acts adopted by the Council.

- (1) Baths and Wash-houses Acts, 1846 to 1882.
Adopted by the Urban District Council of Rugby, on 22nd June, 1889.
- (2) Public Heath Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.
Part II. Telegraph, etc., Wires.
Part III. Sanitary and other provisions.
Part V. Stock.
Adopted by the Rugby Local Board of Health on 14th February, 1891, came into operation on 26th March, 1891.
- (3) Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.
Section 50. Provision of an Ambulance.
By an Order of the Ministry of Health dated 19th March, 1921.
- (4) Public Health Act, 1925.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

This now consists of two Sanitary Inspectors and a Surveyor, all whole-time officials. The control of sewerage, sewage disposal, public water supply, scavenging, and the supervision over new buildings are in the department of the Surveyor.

The first Sanitary Inspector is the official designated for the purpose of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, and also administers the Petroleum Acts, as well as the Food and Drugs Acts.

The second Sanitary Inspector is the official appointed to administer the Shops Acts, 1912 and 1913, and the Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

9. HOUSING.

Progress continues to be maintained in an endeavour to improve housing conditions in the town, and though there are still many difficulties one is able to announce that generally speaking the position is better.

I. *General Housing Conditions*.—The history of the development of Rugby is such as to lead one to expect housing difficulties of no mean kind. The advantages in respect to position and transport possessed by the town are such that great industrial development has taken place since the end of the 19th century. The following figures are interesting :—

| | 1871 | 1881 | 1891 | 1901 | 1911 | 1921 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Population ... | 8,385 | 9,890 | 11,262 | 16,830 | 21,758 | 25,220 |
| Inhabited Houses | 1,527 | 1,851 | 2,367 | 3,501 | 4,778 | 5,052 |
| Persons per House | 5.50 | 5.33 | 4.75 | 4.80 | 4.55 | 5.05 |

It will be seen, if the above figures are studied, that between the years of 1881 and 1891 the building overtook the growth of population, and this state of affairs would appear to have persisted till 1911, but between that date and 1921 conditions became worse. The main cause for this was undoubtedly the European War, though there would appear to have been a certain cessation even before that, which was of course much accentuated by the practically total stoppage between 1914 and 1918. In further consideration of these figures it must be remembered that even in the 10 years between 1911 and 1921 the number of persons per family has decreased from 4.31 to 4.11, in other words as the natural desire and requirement is for a house for each family more houses are required for the same population. As the area of the Rugby Urban District is more or less circumscribed, it has naturally followed that many of those working within the town have had to seek dwellings elsewhere, and in 1921 it was found that 5,246 persons were enumerated elsewhere but worked in Rugby; and of these 3,300 lived in the Rugby Rural District. This has undoubtedly relieved the situation in Rugby, but has passed on the problem to the Rural District. On the other hand the same conditions have obtained in Coventry, and 243 persons were found to be living in Rugby but working in Coventry. It will be seen, therefore, that the problem is of considerable complexity, but the fact emerges that housing has by no means kept pace with the development of the town, and the natural result has been overcrowding.

Faced with these facts the Council has carried out a considerable housing programme, mainly on the Eastlands Estate. Under the State-aided scheme 112 houses were built, and needless to say have been continuously occupied since. A further scheme on the Eastlands Estate, Clifton Road, is in process of fulfilment; some of the houses are occupied, and the remainder are being built as rapidly as possible, making a further 100. The remainder of the first part of the Eastlands Estate has also been developed, and plots for 103 houses have been sold to private persons or builders with the consent of the Ministry of Health.

The fate of the remainder of the Eastlands Estate in the Lower Hillmorton Roads is at present being considered, but there is little doubt that it will be developed and sold in plots to accommodate another 120 houses.

When the Housing Survey was prepared in 1926, the scheme adopted by the Council was for the building of 250 non-parlour type houses and 250 parlour type. It will be seen from the figures above that 212 houses have been or are being built by the Council, and it is hoped that private enterprise will provide a further 223 on sites developed by the Council, making a total of 435 houses or potential houses. I have of course no definite figures, but I am of opinion that the shortage is far from alleviated by the above provision, even when there is added to it the houses which have been built by the Rural District Council in New Bilton, Hillmorton, Bilton, and Dunchurch, which are undoubtedly in many cases occupied by workers in Rugby. There is little doubt that the Council realise the position, and that a progressive policy will continue.

As would be expected from that fact that much of the housing in Rugby is modern, the general conditions are good for a town of this size, and with the constant supervision which is exercised by the two Inspectors, good conditions are not only being maintained, but being improved after the period of stagnation following the War.

II. *Overcrowding*.—No serious cases were noted during the past year, and no statutory action was taken; on the other hand if one considers the occupation of one small house by two families, many cases could be brought forward. After all I think the ideal to be aimed at is one house one family, and until such an ideal is attained it cannot be said that the housing problem is solved.

III. *Fitness of Houses*.—The Survey of 1919 shewed that there were 46 houses in the district which were in such a condition that they should be closed, and a further 42 which were in a bad condition but could be put right. Since that time practically no houses have been closed, as would be expected in the condition of acute shortage of houses which has continued since 1919. The state of the other unfit houses has been greatly improved, though this has been difficult owing to post war building activities and shortage of labour.

Generally speaking, I think the housing conditions in Rugby will compare favourably with those of other towns of similar size.

It is difficult to assign the blame for defects, but usually the structural ones are due to the default of the landlord, but there are a few dirty and destructive tenants. Whilst dealing with this subject, however, it is well to recognise that the cost of remedying structural defects is often out of proportion to the rents received, and it is only natural that the owner of the property shall cavil over a considerable expenditure which it will take many months' rents to cover.

Bye-Laws.—These have been revised and were approved by the Ministry of Health in November, 1925.

Town Planning.—So far nothing has been undertaken, and having regard to the developed conditions of most of the area of the Urban District, it is difficult to see much advantage from the adoption of such a scheme.

The following Tables give particulars as to the houses inspected. The matter is further referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector :—

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

1.—NEW HOUSES.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----|
| (a) | Total | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 31 |
| (b) | With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924 : | | | | | | | |
| | (i.) | By the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| | (ii.) | By other Bodies or Persons | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

| | |
|--|------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 1004 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | 1004 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | — |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 585 |

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 585 |
|--|-----|

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

| | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after formal notice— | |
| (a) by owners... .. | — |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... | — |

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :— | |
| (a) by owners | — |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | — |

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | — |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made... .. | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | — |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | — |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | — |

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF RUGBY.

GENTLEMEN,

We beg to submit our Report of the Sanitary Work carried out and the Nuisances abated during the year 1925. The nuisances abated and various improvements made are shown in Table I.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

210 cases of Infectious Diseases, including Tuberculosis, have been notified during the year, as shown in Table III., which also shews the number of cases removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Disinfectants were supplied in all cases, and the houses were disinfected and any insanitary conditions abated.

The following articles were disinfected at the Steam Disinfector :—480 lots of bedding, a quantity of clothing, and a number of library, school, and other books.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 15 Slaughterhouses in the town, 8 belonging to the Council and 7 privately owned. The Meat Regulations, 1924, which came into operation on 1st April, 1925, have entailed a considerable increase in the number of visits to slaughterhouses, as it is very necessary to inspect the food animals killed therein at the time of slaughter. The slaughterhouses generally are in good condition, and the Bye-laws relating to limewashing have been carried out.

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year the following articles of food have been condemned as unfit for human food, and same have been voluntarily surrendered and destroyed :—145lbs. cod fish, 6 tins (36lbs.) of corned beef, 1 pig, 2 beast, 590lbs. of beef, 39 beasts' livers, 2 sheep, 3 sheep's livers, and 2 tins of condensed milk.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

The Factories, Workshops, Workrooms and Bakehouses on the Registers are 242 in number, including 37 factories, 19 bakehouses, 30 dressmakers and milliners, 32 tailors, 25 builders, 36 cabinetmakers, plumbers, carpenters and painters, 28 shoemakers, 30 motor and cycle repairers, etc. Visits have been paid to them frequently, and the premises have been found to be generally in good condition. All notices served for limewashing have been complied with.

Lists of out-workers have been received from employers in the town, and the homes of such as live within the town have been visited regularly. The names of out-workers residing in other districts have been sent to Oxenden, Daventry, and Rugby Rural District Councils.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

The number on the Register is 69 ; 41 are in the town, and 28 come from outside the District.

During the year one licence to permit the sale by retail of milk designated as certified has been issued.

There are only 5 cowkeepers in the Urban District, and their premises have been frequently visited and found to be well kept and regularly limewashed.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

34 licences have been granted to sell or store petrol or carbide of calcium. The various premises have been inspected, and no infringements of the Regulations were found.

HOUSING ACTS.

During the year the total number of houses inspected for housing defects, and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 was 1,004, in the following streets:—Windsor Street, South Street, Stephen Street, York Street, Rowland Street, Round Street, Oliver Street, Wood Street, Lagoe Place, Grosvenor Road, and Abbey Street.

The houses generally were found to be in fairly good condition, and all defects found have been remedied in consequence of informal action taken.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

31 samples of new milk have been submitted to Messrs. Bostock Hill and Rigby for analysis.

Their report on these samples shewed all to be genuine and of good quality.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

W. H. W. PARSONS,
First Sanitary Inspector.

T. BARTLETT,
Second Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.

RUGBY URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1925.

| | Inspections and Observations made. | Notices served. | | Nuisances Abated after Notices. |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------|--|
| | | Statu- tory. | In- formal. | |
| Dwelling Houses and Schools— | | | | |
| Foul Conditions ... | ... 3200 | — | 330 | 330 |
| Structural Defects ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Unfit for Habitation ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Lodging Houses ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Dairies and Milkshops ... | ... 250 | — | 12 | 12 |
| Cow Sheds ... | ... 20 | — | — | — |
| Bakehouses ... | ... 60 | — | 6 | 6 |
| Slaughter Houses ... | ... 1300 | — | 4 | 4 |
| Canal Boats ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Ashpits and Privies ... | ... 850 | — | 328 | 328 |
| Deposits of Refuse and Manure ... | ... 45 | — | 15 | 15 |
| Water-closets ... | ... 350 | — | 91 | 91 |
| House Drainage— | | | | |
| Defective Traps ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| No Disconnection ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Other Faults ... | ... 450 | — | 54 | 54 |
| Water Supply ... | ... — | — | — | — |
| Pigsties ... | ... 10 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Animals improperly kept ... | ... 5 | — | 1 | 1 |
| Offensive Trades ... | ... 15 | — | 2 | 2 |
| Smoke Nuisances ... | ... 10 | — | — | — |
| Other Nuisances ... | ... 900 | — | 312 | 312 |
| TOTALS ... | 7,465 | — | 1,156 | 1,156 |
| | | | | No. |
| Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Samples of Food taken for Analysis ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| Ditto of Food found adulterated ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

NOTE.—Where an inspection or notice embraced more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each defect.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed ... | ... | ... | 480 |
| Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... | ... | ... | 139 |
| Schools ditto ditto ditto ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease... | ... | ... | — |
| Convictions ditto ditto ditto ditto ... | ... | ... | — |
| Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things ... | ... | ... | — |
| Convictions ditto ditto ditto ... | ... | ... | — |

W. H. W. PARSONS, } Sanitary
T. BARTLETT, } Inspectors.

TABLE II.
RUGBY URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each Year. | BIRTHS. | | NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT. | | | |
|-------|--|---------|-------|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|
| | | Nett. | | Under 1 Year of age. | | At all Ages | |
| | | Number. | Rate. | Number. | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. | Number. | Rate. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1919 | 28,259 | 390 | 13.8 | 29 | 74 | 273 | 10.0 |
| 1920 | 28,209 | 522 | 18.5 | 23 | 44 | 232 | 8.2 |
| 1921 | 25,220 | 462 | 18.2 | 31 | 67 | 236 | 9.3 |
| 1922 | 25,470 | 436 | 17.1 | 23 | 53 | 236 | 9.3 |
| 1923 | 25,460 | 419 | 16.5 | 19 | 45 | 231 | 9.1 |
| 1924 | 25,840 | 348 | 13.5 | 21 | 60 | 252 | 9.8 |
| 1925 | 25,770 | 372 | 14.5 | 12 | 32 | 228 | 8.9 |

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1925.

We are indebted to the Registrar-General for the following statement showing the birth-rates and death-rates and the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales, and in certain parts of the country during the year 1925.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1925 (Provisional Figures).

Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.

| | | | | Births. | Deaths. | Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 18.3 | 12.2 | 75 |
| 105 Great Towns, including London | ... | ... | ... | 18.8 | 12.2 | 79 |
| 157 Smaller Towns | ... | ... | ... | 18.3 | 11.2 | 74 |
| London | ... | ... | ... | 18.0 | 11.7 | 67 |

TABLE III.—RUGBY URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1925.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE | Number of Cases notified. | | | | | | | | Total Cases removed to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | At all Ages. | At Ages.—Years. | | | | | | | | |
| | | Under 1. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45. | 45 to 65. | 65 and upwards. | | |
| Small-pox | | | | | | | | | | |
| Plague | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup) | 28 | ..... | 5 | 18 | 3 | 2 | ..... | ..... | 23 | 2 |
| Erysipelas | 11 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | ..... | ..... |
| Scarlet Fever | 71 | ..... | 13 | 44 | 13 | 1 | ..... | ..... | 47 | ..... |
| Typhus Fever | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 62 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 5 | 18 | 8 | 8 | ..... | 18 |
| Malaria | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dysentery | | | | | | | | | | |
| Puerperal Fever | 3 | ..... | ..... | 2 | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poliomyelitis | 2 | ..... | 1 | 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... | 2 | ..... | .. | ..... | .. | ..... | 1 | 1 | ..... | 2 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicken-Pox | | | | | | | | | | |
| Polio-Encephalitis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | 18 | ..... | 1 | ..... | 4 | 12 | 1 | ..... | ..... | 13 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 12 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 |
| Totals | 210 | 2 | 30 | 81 | 33 | 38 | 14 | 12 | 70 | 44 |

Isolation Hospitals: Heathcote Joint Isolation Hospital (Warwick U.D.);
Joint Small-pox Hospital (Fosse, in Southam R.D.)

TABLE IV.
RUGBY URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | MALES. | FEMALES. |
|---|--------|----------|
| Enteric Fever | 1 | ..... |
| Smallpox ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Measles | 2 | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | 1 |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza | 3 | 3 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1 | 1 |
| Meningococcal Meningitis ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 4 | 9 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases... .. | 4 | 3 |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease | 10 | 25 |
| Rheumatic Fever ... .. | ..... | 2 |
| Diabetes | 1 | ..... |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. | 6 | 11 |
| Heart Disease | 17 | 15 |
| Arterio Sclerosis | 1 | 3 |
| Bronchitis | 8 | 11 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 10 | 8 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | 4 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 yrs.)... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis | 1 | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 4 | 1 |
| Puerperal Sepsis ... .. | ..... | 1 |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth | 3 | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | 2 |
| Other Deaths from Violence | 4 | 3 |
| Other Defined Diseases | 12 | 22 |
| Causes, ill-defined or unknown ... .. | ..... | ..... |
| All Causes | 99 | 129 |

